



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 27 January 2004

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- Reuters reports the development of new antibiotic treatments is slowing as drug firms, citing poor financial returns, focus instead on chronic conditions where medicines are taken for years rather than curing patients in one or two weeks. (See item [14](#))
- The Associated Press reports the Department of Energy's watchdog office says security guards who repelled four simulated terrorist attacks at a Tennessee nuclear weapons plant had been tipped in advance, which undermines the encouraging results. (See item [19](#))
- Computerworld reports that a worm called W32/Mydoom surfaced late Monday is spreading rapidly and has been given a high threat rating by leading anti-virus companies. (See item [21](#))
- Security Focus has raise ThreatCon to Level 2, citing a need for increased vigilance. Please refer to the Internet Alert Dashboard.

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *January 26, Associated Press* — Cause of pipeline fire still unknown. People remained evacuated from their homes Monday, January 26, following a gas pipeline fire, officials

said. The propane transmission line appeared to have ruptured Sunday, January 25 in Davenport, NY, a rural area about an hour southwest of Albany, NY. A trailer home caught fire and 25 people within a half mile were evacuated, according to emergency officials. No injuries were reported. Crews were still burning off the liquefied petroleum gas Monday in a "controlled flare" aimed at emptying an isolated section of the underground pipeline, said Kathleen Sauve, a spokesperson for Houston-based TEPPCO Partners, which operates the pipeline. **Sauve said investigators will look into the cause of the fire after the flare empties the pipeline.** Sauve said it would be premature to speculate on the cause of the fire. She said the underground pipeline, eight inches wide, had been inspected within the past few months. The pipeline runs from the Texas Gulf Coast to the Northeast.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/ny-bc-ny-brf--fireeva-0126jan26.0.3907104.story?coll=ny-ap-regional-wire>

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

2. *January 26, Government Computer News* — **Tactical radio architecture ready to roll. The Department of Defense (DoD) is edging closer to delivering new DoD-wide digital radio systems. Next month, the JTRS Joint Program Office will release Version 2.2 of the Joint Tactical Radio System's software communications architecture.** The office then will begin source selection in another 30 to 45 days and award a development contract within a few months, said Air Force Col. Steven MacLaird, JTRS program director. "We think JTRS will be as powerful in the 21st century as the Global Positioning System was in the 1980s," MacLaird said. MacLaird's team is responsible for migrating legacy, single-band radio systems to the JTRS architecture. The JTRS family of software-programmable radios will provide multichannel voice, data, imagery and video communications. **The radios will replace more than 25 types of legacy radios now in use across the services.** Under the \$5.7 billion JTRS architecture, service members on the battlefield, in combat vehicles and at command posts are supposed to be able to communicate across different channels and legacy comm applications. Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/24754-1.html

3. *January 23, Govexec.com* — **Defense areas considered for base consolidation plans.** The military services recently were told to consider combining seven areas as part of an ongoing review of bases to close in 2005, said Phil Grone, principal assistant deputy undersecretary of Defense for installations and environment. Next year, the Pentagon will recommend shutting down or realigning dozens of military bases. **According to Grone, the seven areas that are being studied for combining work across the services: industrial, supply and storage facilities, technical, training, headquarters and support activities, medical, and intelligence.** Grone said a key difference between past rounds of military base closures and this one will be a focus on creating joint bases and facilities. The Pentagon's plan to close more

bases in 2005 is not simply a cost-cutting exercise, Grone said, but a part of transforming the military. By having the ideal number of bases, Grone added, the military will better be able to prepare, execute and support its missions worldwide. **In the spring of 2005, Defense officials will recommend bases that should be closed or realigned to an independent panel that will make final recommendations to Congress that fall.**

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0104/012304g1.htm>

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Banking and Finance Sector

4. *January 25, Straits Times (Singapore)* — **Massive money laundering scam in Hong Kong. In a large money laundering scheme, couriers from mainland China strapped cash worth millions to their bodies and walked into Hong Kong to deposit it. The low-tech scam, revealed during a trial in Hong Kong, ran for five years and allegedly involved cash collected in various foreign currencies from three mainland syndicates.** The money was also neatly wrapped in plastic bags and smuggled by car into Hong Kong through the Ma Kam To or the Lok Ma Chau border checkpoints. It eventually was dispersed to more than 1,300 local and foreign bank accounts, in accordance with syndicate instructions. Prosecutor Peter Callaghan said investigators who sifted through the books of the money-changing firm allegedly involved discovered that an average of US\$11.8 million a day was deposited into its bank account during a 35-day period. The operation allegedly ran from August 2, 1996 until the U.S. terror attacks on September 11, 2001. Prosecutors said U.S. dollars, Italian lire, German marks, Japanese yen, Singapore dollars, New Taiwan dollars and Chinese yuan were collected by three mainland syndicates. **While the source of the money remains unclear, prosecutors believe that it belonged to mainland companies which evaded taxes,** according to the Chinese-language Ming Pao Daily News.

Source: <http://straitstimes.asia1.com.sg/news/story/0.4386.231686.00.html>

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Transportation Sector

5. *January 26, Department of Transportation* — **Department of Transportation to begin safety inspections of truck container chassis. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta announced today, January 26, that the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) will launch a safety inspection program for intermodal container chassis.** The inspection program will provide added oversight to help ensure that the trailer beds used by truckers to haul cargo containers are safe. Intermodal container chassis are the flat trailer beds that cargo containers are loaded onto when being transported by truck. They are used to transport more than \$450 million in cargo value entering and leaving the United States annually. Cargo containers being hauled by rail and shipping companies are regularly transferred to trucks before final delivery. **“Every day millions of dollars worth of cargo are transferred from ships and rail to trailer beds and hauled away by trucks,” said Secretary Mineta. “It is essential that we have a full and complete safety program focused on the trailer beds used to haul cargo containers.”**

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/fmcsa0104.htm>

6. *January 26, Associated Press* — **Queen Mary 2 arrives in Florida. The Queen Mary 2, the world's largest and most expensive passenger ship, completed its maiden trans-Atlantic voyage Monday, arriving at the Fort Lauderdale port.** Accompanied by a tugboat that shot red and blue water into the air, the ship pulled into port shortly after 7 a.m., two weeks after it left the English port of Southampton. About 2,600 passengers paid anywhere from about \$2,800 to \$37,499 for the first trip. A procession of Coast Guard and Navy vessels protected the Queen Mary 2, and hundreds of people lined the shores and nearby high-rises to get a look at the \$800 million ocean liner. More than a dozen law enforcement and television helicopters hovered overhead and a small plane pulling a banner reading "Fort Lauderdale welcomes QM2" circled above. **The ship sets a number of records for passenger vessels -- largest, longest, tallest, widest and most expensive. It's 1,132 feet long -- more than twice as long as the Washington Monument is tall -- and 236 feet high, about the height of a 23-story building. It weighs about 151,400 long tons -- the rough equivalent of 390 fully loaded 747 jets.** The Queen Elizabeth 2 -- whose trans-Atlantic route will be taken over by the new ship in April -- was built in 1967. The original Queen Mary was launched in 1934 and is now a tourist attraction and hotel in Long Beach, CA.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/TRAVEL/01/26/queen.mary2.ap/index.html>

7. *January 25, Associated Press* — **Woman passes airport security with stun gun, knife. A woman passed through security screening at New York's LaGuardia Airport with a stun gun and knife in her purse -- but later discovered the mistake herself and alerted authorities. The woman realized she was carrying the items after a short layover in Detroit and on her way to Denver.** "She immediately went, 'Oh, my God, I'm not supposed to have these here,' and called the flight attendant over," said Spirit Airlines spokesperson Laura Bennett. The pilot alerted Denver International Airport; police met the plane at the gate and took the woman into custody for questioning. She was released without charges. "She did the right thing by giving up the items voluntarily, and she was never malicious," Bennett said. "We never considered her a threat." Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officials had no comment on the security slip. TSA official Darrin Kayser said the agency would investigate. "It was an honest but odd mistake," Bennett said. "But it's true that people often don't think about what's in their luggage."

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/US/01/25/airport.security.ap/index.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

8. *January 26, Guardian – United Kingdom* — **Bird flu virus spreads to Pakistan.** Pakistan Monday was added to the list of nations affected by the bird flu spreading across Asia. Pakistan

said it had detected a form of the virus among chickens in the southern port city of Karachi. Six people have so far died from the H5N1 strain of the illness in Vietnam. **The Pakistani strain, identified as the H7 and H9 varieties, is less dangerous to humans than H5N1 but its effect on birds is equally devastating and it could have killed as many as two million chickens.** Maruf Siddiqui, a senior Karachi official of the Pakistan Poultry Farm Association, said that the outbreak had cost farmers "what we have earned during the last 15 years in 15 days." Attempts to tackle the bird flu are being frustrated by its fast rate of mutation and its rapid spread. One theory is that the strain is being spread to domestic chicken populations across Asia by migratory wildfowl. Affected nations have culled chicken flocks in a bid to contain the disease. Vietnam has slaughtered more than three million and Thailand more than nine million.

Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/pakistan/Story/0,2763,1131506,00.html>

9. *January 26, Michigan Ag Connection* — **Fusarium, DON cripple wheat industry in southeast.** Fusarium head blight (FHB, scab) wreaked havoc on wheat crops east of the Mississippi River, where large amounts of rainfall made conditions ripe for FHB and resulted in high levels of deoxynivalenol (DON). DON is a toxic byproduct of FHB that can make wheat unfit for milling. **Industry experts says FHB damage to farmers and millers in the soft red wheat producing region of North Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee in 2003 was unprecedented, crippling grain flow patterns and sales.** In the past, it was thought that DON in wheat could be reduced to acceptable levels by the milling process, a concept called "milling loss," typically on the order of 50 percent. Thus, if raw kernels of wheat contained DON of two parts per million, the derivative flour of this wheat would typically test at one ppm or less in flour intended for human consumption. In 2003, however, DON levels of wheat from FHB-infected wheat in southeastern states weren't falling as much as expected during milling. For example, raw wheat that may have tested for two ppm DON would mill flour testing at 1.8 ppm DON. This would be too high to meet the federal advisory level of one ppm or less in flour intended for human consumption.

Source: <http://www.michiganagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=44&yr=2004>

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Food Sector

10. *January 26, Reuters* — **Brazil adopts U.S. mad cow safeguard for beef exports. Brazil's Agriculture Ministry said late Friday it had adopted the mad cow safeguard of banning sick or injured cattle for human consumption, as requested by the U.S. for beef exporters.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service sent letters to 10 exporting nations including Brazil earlier this month, saying beef exports would be blocked if nations did not comply with the new rules. Brazil does not export fresh beef to the United States. In the letter received by Brazil on January 8, the USDA demanded that beef exporting countries ban downer cattle, prohibit the use of air-stunning devices in cattle slaughter, and impose stricter rules on handling cattle parts most at risk of containing the prions that spread mad cow disease. The Agriculture Ministry's statement made no reference to the USDA's request to ban air-stunning devices, which are used in Brazilian slaughter houses, but only said Brazil had banned sick or injured cows for human consumption. U.S. representatives should confirm that the safety measures have been adopted in the next inspection of Brazil's beef industry, scheduled for February.

Source: http://www.agriculture.com/worldwide/IDS/2004-01-26T134842Z_01_N26460531_RTRIDST_0_MADCOW-BRAZIL.html

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Water Sector

11. *January 26, Oregonian* — **Reservoirs deemed historical, may harm security efforts. The National Parks Service has listed Portland, Oregon's five open drinking water reservoirs on the National Register of Historic Places, which could mean extra scrutiny for the city's plans to bury or cap the reservoirs for security purposes.** The listing, made official Friday, was pursued by a group which opposes Portland's plans to bury or decommission Mount Tabor Park's three open reservoirs and cap Washington Park's two reservoirs. The city anticipated the listing and is preparing for the extra reviews, officials said. The City Council has approved a \$77 million plan to improve reservoir security by burying two of Mount Tabor's three reservoirs and capping Washington Park's reservoirs.

Source: <http://www.oregonlive.com/news/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/exclude/1074949819326390.xml>

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Public Health Sector

12. *January 26, Laksamana.net* — **Indonesia lacks funds to destroy poultry. The Indonesian government has no plan to destroy chickens infected with avian influenza because it lacks the necessary funds, Agriculture Minister Bungaran Saragih said Monday.** "Because of economic considerations, we cannot yet follow the example of some neighboring countries in destroying infected poultry," he was quoted as saying by state news agency Antara. Indonesia is the seventh Asian nation to be hit by the disease. The governments of Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, South Korea, Japan, and Taiwan have ordered mass culls in an effort to halt the spread of the virus. But Saragih claimed destroying poultry would not be the best solution because the virus had already spread across much of Indonesia. He further said that such action would cause a drastic reduction in the nation's chicken population. **Exactly how many chickens in Indonesia have died as a result of the virus since last August is unclear, but some reports have put the number as high as 10 million.**

Source: http://www.laksamana.net/vnews.cfm?ncat=34&news_id=6577

13. *January 26, National Institutes of Health* — **First U.S. tuberculosis vaccine trial in 60 years begins. A new vaccine, made with several proteins from the bacterium that causes tuberculosis (TB), will soon enter the first phase of human safety testing.** The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health, has supported research on the candidate vaccine from its earliest stages. The trial will be conducted in the U.S. by Seattle-based biotechnology company and a vaccine manufacturer headquartered in Belgium. The vaccine combines two TB proteins known to stimulate strong immune responses in humans. The proteins were initially identified by screening blood taken from volunteers who never became ill with tuberculosis despite long-term infection with

Mycobacterium tuberculosis bacteria. Using recombinant DNA technology, the TB proteins were fused and then combined with adjuvants. The Phase I trial will enroll 20 volunteers at a single site in the United States and will assess the vaccine's safety. Researchers will examine blood from the volunteers to determine which dosage of vaccine promotes the greatest anti-TB immune response. If the vaccine proves safe in this initial stage of testing, it will be further tested for evidence of efficacy in larger clinical trials.

Source: <http://www.nih.gov/news/pr/jan2004/niaid-26.htm>

14. *January 26, Reuters* — **Fears grow as drug firms quit antibiotic research. The pipeline of new antibiotic treatments is drying up as drug firms, citing poor financial returns, focus instead on chronic conditions where medicines are taken for years rather than curing patients in one or two weeks.** The shrinking of the medical armory has sparked a debate between regulators and pharmaceutical companies over ways to kick-start investment. "The relative lack of research on anti-microbials is a matter of concern and it does relate partly to the financial returns on their use," said Richard Laing, an expert on medicine policy at the World Health Organization. **"There is clearly a potential risk, due to growing drug resistance, that there won't be any effective anti-microbials available in the future."** Only nine new antibiotics have been approved since 1998, of which just two had a novel mechanism of action, and the annual reports of major drug companies list five new antibiotics in development out of more than 400 agents in total. The industry says the economics simply do not stack up. While many pharmaceuticals show double-digit sales growth, the antibiotic market is flat and could decline with the arrival of cheap generic copies of two big sellers, Augmentin and Cipro. For the few new antibiotics that have made it to market, the financial returns have been meager at a time when the regulatory hurdle has increased.

Source: <http://in.news.yahoo.com/040126/137/2b4wb.html>

15. *January 25, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* — **False lab test stalled monkeypox detection.** Monkeypox had never caused an outbreak outside of western and central Africa until last summer, when 81 confirmed or suspected cases were reported in six states, including 39 in Wisconsin. **At least two different hospitals in two different cities saw patients early on and mistook their illness for something else.** Even after the patients went back because they weren't getting better or went to different hospitals, the correct diagnosis wasn't made for some time. **It took 11 days from when the first victim sought treatment from a prairie dog bite for state officials to be notified, and three weeks before the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention learned that an orthopoxvirus, a small family of germs that includes smallpox, had been found.** In retrospect, it's easy to see how monkeypox was missed, said Marshfield Clinic pathologist Kurt Reed, who wrote the report with others from the Milwaukee Health Department, the Wisconsin Division of Public Health, the CDC, the Medical College of Wisconsin, and Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital. Doctors thought the first patient just had an infected finger from the animal bite. After it turned into a pock, a lab test showed a type of bacteria that could have caused plague or tularemia. State health officials were notified, but the bacteria turned out to be a common lab contaminant.

Source: <http://www.centredaily.com/mld/centredaily/news/7796521.htm>

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Government Sector

16. *January 26, Federal Communications Week* — **US-VISIT faces land hurdles.** Officials fear that installing the U.S. Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology (US-VISIT) system at hundreds of land-crossing border points could be even more challenging than doing it for airports. Of the millions of people coming in and out of the country every year, more than 80 percent pass through a land crossing. **The deadline for putting US-VISIT in at the 50 busiest points is December 31, 2004, and the other 150-plus points must be covered by December 31, 2005, said Jim Williams, director of the program within the Homeland Security Department's Border and Transportation Security directorate.** Although the infrastructure at international airports is relatively consistent, "every land border crossing is unique," Williams said. This will mean working closely with city and state officials to implement US-VISIT in a way that makes sense for each location, using both new technology and changes in processes to improve handling of the vast amount of foot and car traffic, he said. For the future, officials are evaluating radio frequency identification technology, which links a biometric measure, such as a fingerprint, to the basic information transmitted by the RF chip. That would increase the security because it would be harder to spoof the identity of the person in possession of the chip, but the technology is still very immature, Williams said.
Source: <http://www.fcw.com/geb/articles/2004/0119/web-usvisit-01-23-04.asp>

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Emergency Services Sector

17. *January 26, Federal Computer Week* — **First responder report due in spring.** By early spring, the federal government hopes to release a sweeping document that catalogs the priorities of first responders based on various national reports and surveys that have been published previously. "We solicited information from them to identify reports that we had not found and insight into what is most useful in a final report," said Richard Jacques, a senior program manager with the National Institute of Justice, adding that facilitating communications interoperability was "at the forefront of the minds" of most survey participants. **The final report, he said, is anticipated to provide a complete inventory of first responder needs based on analysis of after-action reports and existing surveys and reports, a basis for the development of new technology, and a document to help state and local agencies procure technology and equipment for first responders.** Joel Leson, special assistant to the executive director of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), said the gist of the assessment is to ensure that first responders identify requirements for industry and that they meet federal safety and other types of standards.
Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0126/web-firstresponder-01-26-04.asp>

18. *January 26, Herald-Coaster (Fort Bend County, Texas)* — **County to participate in terrorism response training exercises in April.** Fort Bend County, Texas, will undergo terrorism response training exercises, involving heads of county and other local governments, beginning with a January 27 orientation meeting. **County Judge Bob Hebert said the program involves the coordination of the Governor's Division of Emergency Management and the National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center and will be run by the county's Office of Emergency Management.** Jeff Braun, coordinator of the Office of Emergency Management, said the first meeting will provide a program orientation to a number

of area governments and department heads. Following that, about a month later, a smaller group of individuals will convene to determine a terrorism-like scenario for participating agencies to practice. Not until April, said Braun, will an exercise be carried out. "Through there's only a remote chance that we would sustain this type of activity, we do want to be prepared for it," he said. Braun said the county has acquired terrorism-related equipment such as Hazmat equipment and an emergency communications center that could run if power failed in Fort Bend County.

Source: <http://www.herald-coaster.com/articles/2004/01/26/news/news01.txt>

19. *January 26, Associated Press* — **Watchdog: Nuke guards cheated in drill. Security guards who repelled four simulated terrorist attacks at a Tennessee nuclear weapons plant had been tipped in advance, undermining the encouraging results, the Department of Energy's watchdog office said Monday.** The surprising successes by guards at the Y-12 nuclear weapons plant last summer in Oak Ridge, TN, spurred an internal investigation. It determined that at least two guards defending the mock attacks had been allowed to look at computer simulations one day before the attacks. **The Energy Department's inspector general, Gregory H. Friedman, declared the exercises "tainted and unreliable." He said each mock attack cost as much as \$85,000 to stage, and he urged the department to consider his conclusions when awarding contracting fees for Wackenhut Corp., which employs guards at Oak Ridge.** A spokesman for Wackenhut did not return telephone calls Monday to The Associated Press. The National Nuclear Security Administration, which protects nuclear plants, said in a letter disclosed Monday that it already has taken unspecified action. An associate administrator, Michael C. Kane, wrote that if the attack simulations "were in any way compromised so as it skew the quality of information we have about our ability to protect, the results could have extremely significant effects in a way that is entirely unacceptable."
- Source: <http://www.sunherald.com/mld/sunherald/news/state/7800476.htm>

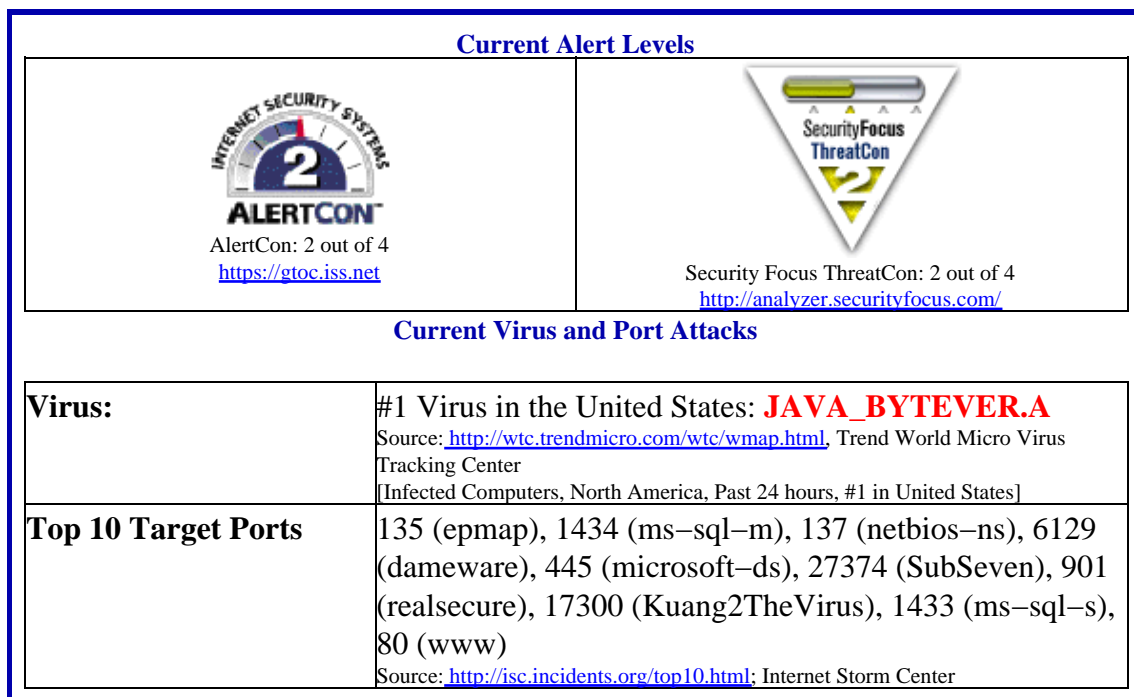
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Information and Telecommunications Sector

20. *January 26, eWeek.com* — **Bagle-type threats on the rise? While the outbreak last week of the Bagle.A virus was one of the least troublesome in recent memory, security experts worry that the virus—following in the infamous footsteps of 2003's SoBig worms—is a harbinger of more-sophisticated attacks to come.** Many in the security community say the SoBig family—and possibly Bagle.A—are the work of an organized group of criminals with bigger plans than merely clogging in-boxes and annoying IT staffs. SoBig.F and Bagle.A have the capability to log users' keystrokes, enabling the theft of passwords and other sensitive data, and are programmed to set up proxies on infected machines for the purpose of sending spam. **For IT managers, these worms present new difficulties, given that they don't do any noticeable damage to infected machines but, rather, steal sensitive corporate passwords and other data.** Administrators can also look for spikes in traffic on unusual ports or client machines sending large amounts of mail messages. "It's certainly interesting to see [Bagle.A] mirror the techniques in SoBig. It could be that virus writers are using Net users as beta testers before they build the very big ones," said Ian Hameroff, eTrust security strategist at Computer Associates International Inc.
- Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,4149,1457323,00.asp>

21. *January 26, Computerworld* — **Mydoom worm spreading rapidly.** A new e-mail worm has appeared on the Internet and is spreading rapidly, according to leading anti-virus companies. **The worm, called W32/Mydoom, surfaced late Monday, January 26. "This worm is taking off like a rocket, with well over 20,000 interceptions in just 2 hours of it being discovered,"** Ken Dunham of iDefense Inc. said. The virus is also being called MiMail.R, Shimg, Novarg and Mydoom, although it's not certain yet that this code is a variant of the MiMail virus, Dunham said. Mydoom carries varying subjects such as "HELLO" or a blank subject, as well as a variety of messages and attachments. When loaded, it calls up Notepad and displays random characters, while creating a copy of itself and modifying the infected machine's Windows registry to run the code upon start-up. It may open a TCP port to listen for commands from a remote attacker, according to Dunham. "It also attacks sco.com with a DDoS [denial-of-service] attack," said a statement from F-Secure. **It can spread by both e-mail and the Kazaa file-sharing system,** several anti-virus vendors said. Computer Associates International Inc.'s research labs received 11 copies of the new worm almost simultaneously today, indicating a rapidly spreading infection. The Mercury News reports that Vincent Gullotto of McAfee AVERT said the company had received reports from some companies receiving MyDoom e-mails at rates as great as 1,000 a minute. He added at **as many as six Fortune 500 companies have been affected.**
Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/securitytopics/security/virus/story/0,10801,89449,00.html>

Internet Alert Dashboard



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General Sector

22. *January 26, Voice of America* — **Afgan president signs new constitution. Afghan President Hamid Karzai has signed the country's new constitution into law, paving the way for the first free elections in more than two decades.** The document provides for a moderate Islamic republic led by a president, slated to be elected later this year. **The new government outlined in the constitution will replace Karzai's transitional administration, installed after the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001.** The transitional government drafted the new constitution last year. A grand council of Afghan leaders elected from across the country, along with a small contingent of members appointed by Karzai, then amended and approved the document earlier this month. The Afghan government and United Nations are registering people for elections, tentatively scheduled for this June.

Source: <http://www.voanews.com/article.cfm?objectID=71472F0A-F868-4F01-9FC4F2E9101F4796>

23. *January 26, Associated Press* — **Great Lakes, mid-Atlantic and Midwest brace for winter storms after deadly weekend.** Snow and freezing rain showers barreled across the Great Lakes, mid-Atlantic and Midwest early Monday, January 26, a day after winter storms further south left roadways treacherous from the central Plains to the East coast. Schools, businesses and government offices were closed Monday in North and South Carolina, while school districts across Ohio canceled classes in anticipation of slippery commutes. **"It has the potential of being a major ice storm," said meteorologist Jonathan Lamb with the National Weather Service in Greer, SC. A winter storm warning was issued for southern areas of New Jersey and road crews scrambled in Maryland and Delaware to prepare for what was predicted to be the heaviest snowfall of the season.** At least 16 people died in weather-related car wrecks over the weekend. Dozens of airline flights were delayed or canceled from Missouri to South Carolina, and sporadic power outages were reported. In Ohio, 14 people had to be rescued from Lake Erie by helicopter and airboat after high winds cracked the ice they were fishing on, separating them from Catawba Island, authorities said.

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/press/ap/ap012604.shtm>

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DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

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